

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Youth Exploring Adventure, Inc.****Project Title:**

# Youth Exploring Adventure, Inc. - Hilltop Ski Area Replacement Chairlift

**State Funding Requested: \$ 400,000****House District: Anchorage Areawide (17-32)**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

Install a double chairlift at the Hilltop Ski Area.

**Funding Plan:****Total Cost of Project: \$400,000**Funding Secured*Amount FY*Other Pending Requests*Amount FY*Anticipated Future Need*Amount FY*

There is no other funding needed

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

In 2002 Hilltop purchased a surplus double chairlift. The project will fund the installation of the double chairlift and improve service, safety and the experience at the Hilltop Ski Area.

**Project Timeline:**

Project will commence in FY 09.

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Hilltop Ski Area

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Contact Name: Kurt Bunde

Phone Number: 907-346-1446

Address: Hilltop Ski Area, 7015 Abbott Road, Anchorage, AK 99507

Email:

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☐ Yes ☒ No



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Dedicated to Developing Recreational Facilities for Our Alaskan Youth

## HILLTOP SKI AREA

Dedicated to providing healthy lifestyles for lifelong fitness

In 1980 and 1983 the state of Alaska made an investment in the Anchorage community by providing \$400,000 to fund the construction of Hilltop Ski Area's chairlift. Over the past 25 years Hilltop Ski Area has grown by leaps and bounds and has provided year around opportunities to many different user groups from around the state. Hilltop expects to see over 100,000 visits to the ski area and park during 2008 and this number far exceeds Hilltop's current annual capacity.

A common misconception is that Hilltop is publicly funded, aside from the state's initial investment Hilltop has been a self sufficient 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. The only Municipal support Hilltop has received came in the form of a \$102,000 operational loan in 2005 after series of poor snow years.

Hilltop has streamlined operations and entered into a summer chalet lease agreement with the Municipality of Anchorage that has enabled Hilltop to re-pay over \$352,000 in debt since 2005. Hilltop is projected to be completely debt free by May of 2010 and now demonstrates a positive cash flow and fiscal responsibility.

Over the last 25 years Hilltop has become a year around destination for visitors from around the state and the world. Visitors include several different user groups including; alpine and nordic skiers, mountain bikers, cross country runners and hikers, wedding guest and guests other special events. Hilltop is also a community partner and donates generously to other non-profits such as Special Olympics, local churches and school programs.

With the state providing further investment, Hilltop can become even a greater community asset that will benefit millions of visitors over the next 25 years.



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## **HILLTOP SKI AREA A BRIEF OVERVIEW**

- ❖ 1956 Hilltop Youth, Inc. incorporated as a non-profit corporation
- ❖ 1960 Hilltop serves as a recreational organization for families and youth
- ❖ 1970 Hilltop begins planning and design of winter sports center
- ❖ 1980 Hilltop receives state grant of \$250,000 for chairlift purchase
- ❖ 1983 Hilltop receives state grant of \$150,00 for chairlift construction
- ❖ 1983 Hilltop Ski Area opens
- ❖ 1990 Hilltop averages over 50,000 skier visits annually
- ❖ 1991 Hilltop averages over 50,000 summer visits annually
- ❖ 1994 Hilltop Ski Area is granted 501(c)3 status
- ❖ 1995 Hilltop increases capacity with installation of platter lift
- ❖ 1995 Hilltop receives concept approval from Municipality for new facilities
- ❖ 2000 Hilltop increases capacity with installation of triple chairlift
- ❖ 2001 Hilltop constructs new 7,676 square foot chalet
- ❖ 2001 Hilltop hosts Special Olympic World Winter Games snowboarding competition
- ❖ 2002 Hilltop hosts Special Olympic snowboard and alpine state and local games
- ❖ 2005 Hilltop leases chalet to Municipality of Anchorage for summer chalet rentals
- ❖ 2008 Hilltop repays \$102,000 operational loan to Municipality of Anchorage



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## **HILLTOP SKI AREA CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT HISTORY**

- ❖ 1980 State of Alaska authorized \$250,000 grant for chairlift purchase
- ❖ 1983 State of Alaska authorized \$150,000 grant for chairlift construction
- ❖ 1983 Hilltop Ski Area Opens
- ❖ 1984 Hilltop funds installation of snowmaking system totaling \$1,000,000
- ❖ 1995 Hilltop funds installation of platter lift, \$40,000
- ❖ 2000 Hilltop funds installation of triple chairlift, \$170,000
- ❖ 2001 Hilltop builds new 7,673 square foot ski chalet with a \$1,300,000 federal grant
- ❖ 2002 Hilltop funds purchase of double chairlift, \$40,000
- ❖ 2003 Hilltop procures \$24,000 for paving of road and parking lot